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Remembers

# U.S. Experts on Soviet Find Khrushchev Memoirs

By **TERENCE SMITH**

Special to The New York Times

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A group of 30 experts on the Soviet Union concluded in a meeting here last week that the recently published memoirs of former Nikita S. Khrushchev were authentic and that they had been released to the West without the approval of the present Soviet leadership.

The unpublicized meeting convened at the State Department, was attended by Soviet area specialists from the department, the Central Intelligence Agency and other Gov-

ernment agencies as well as private experts.

Two former ambassadors to Moscow, Llewellyn E. Thompson and George F. Kennan, also anticipated in the session, at which Ray S. Cline, director of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, presided.

The meeting was designed to establish what conclusions could be drawn from the memoirs about Soviet policy and policy-makers. Another goal was to coordinate what

one participant described as the "available bits and pieces of rumor and gossip" that have

arisen about the manner in which the memoirs reached the West.

Time, Inc., which acquired the reminiscences and serialized them in Life magazine before they were published in book form, has refused to shed light on the origin of the material. The book, titled "Khrushchev Remembers," was published Dec. 21 by Little, Brown and Co.

The panel of experts concluded that most, if not all, of the published material was in the words of the Soviet leader although some of it appears to have been doctored

before it reached the publishers. Judging from the choppy, disorganized style, the specialists concluded that some sections had been excised, perhaps to protect Khrushchev.

They believe that the manuscript was compiled from a number of sources, including speeches and tape-recorded recollections, and pasted together before it reached the West. But they remain, in the words of one participant, "very much in the dark" about how and why the material reached Time, Inc.

The conclusion that the document reached the West without the authorization of the present Soviet leadership is based on the anti-Stalinist tone of the memoirs. One participant described them as "an echo of the secret speech" Mr. Khrushchev delivered before a Soviet party congress in 1956.

## Terror Now Minimized

The anti-Stalinist tone is out of step with the current policy of giving credit to Stalin for his wartime leadership and playing down his rule of terror.

The conflict with current policy is so great, in the opinion of the experts, that the memoirs could not have received the endorsement of the present party chief, Leonid I. Brezhnev, who is closely identified with the partial rehabilitation of Stalin.

The specialists tend to doubt the theory that the memoirs were passed to the West under the sponsorship of a ranking Soviet official and the secret police in an effort to embarrass the leadership. No agreement on an alternate theory was reached at the meeting.

The inclusion of other damaging material, such as the admission that the Soviet Union attacked Finland in 1939 and that North Korea attacked South Korea in 1950, bolstered the experts' conclusion that the leadership had not intended the manuscript to be published in the form it was.

Although no definite plans have been set, a second meeting of the experts may be called after the material for the first is digested and further research is done by Government agencies.

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